

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 568

Recognizing the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid in Harpers Ferry,
West Virginia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. WOLF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid
in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Whereas Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, located at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers was first noted for its beauty by our Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson;

Whereas it was designated by George Washington as a site for a Federal armory and arsenal that helped it grow into a bustling factory town where the first interchangeable parts for guns were created that supplied Lewis and Clark on their journey of westward expansion;

Whereas Harpers Ferry is most known for John's Brown Raid on October 16–18, 1859, who chose the town for its

Federal armory and arsenal with plans to seize the town and began an uprising in the South that would end slavery;

Whereas John Brown and his provisional army of 21 men captured the bridge, arsenal, armory, Hall's Rifle Works, along with hostages, and slave owners John Allstadt and Lewis Washington;

Whereas the fighting continued and on the morning of October 18, 1859, Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee and Lt. J.E.B. Stuart ordered 90 Marines to storm the engine house and captured John Brown and his 4 remaining men after they refused to surrender;

Whereas a total of 16 men were killed or mortally wounded in John Brown's Raid including, an unidentified slave, Thomas Boerly, George W. Turner, Mayor Fontaine Beckham, Heyward Shepherd, Luke Quinn, and 10 of Brown's men, William Leeman, John H. Kagi, Jeremiah G. Anderson, William Thompson, Dauphin Thompson, Brown's sons Oliver and Watson, Stewart Taylor, Lewis S. Leary, and Dangerfield Newby;

Whereas Brown and his men were tried in Charles Town, Virginia (present day West Virginia), and were convicted to death by hanging for the charges of murder, conspiring with slaves to rebel, and treason against the State of Virginia, however, their actions ultimately forced the country to consider the future of slavery in a turn of events that would lead to the Civil War and the freedom of 4,000,000 African-Americans;

Whereas Harpers Ferry stands as a testament to the anti-slavery and civil rights movements with the establishment of Storer College, created to educate newly freed slaves

and later became the site of the America's first Niagara Movement meeting with an address delivered by African-American leader and scholar, William E. Du Bois whose speech inspired the civil rights movement and the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909; and

Whereas in a year when we celebrate the election of our Nation's first African-American President, Barack Obama, let us also recognize the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid, the outbreak of America's Civil War, and the important role Harpers Ferry has played in our Nation's history: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
- 2 nizes the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid in
- 3 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

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